Pre-School education in the country

†1351. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pre-school education for the children between two to five years of age has been growing expeditiously in the country during the last few years;

(b) if so, Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that many big houses are active in this field and this system has become inaccessible to common man of the country; and

(d) if not, the facts in this regard and whether Government would consider to regularize these institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) Pre-School education under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme is imparted to the children in the age group of 3-6 years. Number of pre-school beneficiaries of ICDS Scheme has increased from approximately 1.66 crore as on 30th March, 2002 to 2.71 crore on 30th September, 2006.

(c) and (d) Education being a subject in the concurrent list, most of the pre-schools come under the jurisdiction of the State Government.

Sharing expenditure of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan between the Centre and States

† 1352. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission has suggested to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Central and State Governments to spend equal amount on Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan in the country from the ensuing year,

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and whether the amount to be shared by Government has also been mentioned in this proposal; and

(c) if so, the extend of amount and whether the proposed amount for the year 2007-08 is more or less as compared to the amount allotted for the year 2006-07?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRl MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) The centrally sponsored scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) as approved in 2001, envisaged a funding pattern between the Central and State Governments in the ratio of 85:15 during Ninth Plan period, 75:25 during Tenth Plan and 50:50 thereafter.

As per the Budget proposal presented on 28.02.2007, Rs. 10671 crore has been provided for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) for the year 2007-08. The BE for SSA in the year 2006-07 was Rs. 11000 crores.

Mid-Day meal in higher classes

†1353. SHRl KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:
SHRl KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have formulated a scheme to implement Mid-day Meal Scheme in higher classes also;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the enhanced amount to be incurred under the scheme as a result of its implementation; and

(d) by when the scheme would be implemented and the names of the States where it is likely to be introduced in the beginning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRl MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Finance tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi.